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## (TRANSLATION OF JP-A-3-239902)

#### **SPECIFICATION**

- Title of the Invention
   Circular Shape Extractor
- 5 2. Scope of Claim for Patent
  - (1) A circular shape extractor characterized by inputting a circular body as a gray image to extract all edge points in a gray boundary of the image, calculating the respective distances between the coordinates of an
- intersection of straight lines inclined at angles  $\theta$  at two of the edge points and the coordinates of the two edge points to extract the intersection as an image at the center of a circle when both the distances are substantially equal to each other, moving to the subsequent edge point, and similarly extracting the other edge points to estimate the center and the radius of the circular body.
  - 3. Detailed Description of the Invention [Object of the Invention] (Applicable Industrial Field)
- The present invention relates to a method of extracting a center point of a circle or circular shape, and particularly to a method and apparatus that can be utilized for inputting an image of an object to be produced having the contour of the circle or circular shape from a camera provided side by side
  - with an industrial robot or the like and connected thereto, processing the image using a computer, and extracting the center point of the circle or circular shape to issue an

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instruction to the robot or the like.

(Prior Art)

In recent years, a large number of industrial robots having so-called artificial intelligence allowing flexible processing and assembling work by providing a camera having the same vision as human vision side by side therewith and connecting the camera thereto to recognize and measure the shape, the position, etc. of an object to be produced, for example, processed and assembled have been employed for production processes as a machine acting for human work. As an information processing method of a visual image of the object to be produced that is inputted to the industrial robot camera during the production processes, a binary image processing method has been widely used (see JP-A-62-34004, for example). The binary image processing method is a method as described below. As shown in Fig. 6 (a), an object 2 to be processed, for example, is picked up by a camera 1, an image obtained by the pickup is inputted to a computer, and the inputted image is decomposed into M pixels in the x-axis direction and N pixels in the y-axis direction. As a result, the object to be processed can be displayed as a hatched figure in a plane coordinate system on which M  $\times$  N pixels 3 are collected, as shown in Fig. 6 (b). When a histogram of a density value of each of the pixels 3 and the number of pixels 3 corresponding to the density value is then computerized at the same time that it is found, a peak corresponding to a background and a peak corresponding to the object 2 to be processed appear, as shown in Fig. 6 (c). A

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density value at a valley between the two peaks is considered to be a reference density in image processing as a threshold value t. It is determined for each of the pixels whether the density thereof is larger or smaller than the threshold value t, to set a memory corresponding to the pixel 3 to one if the density is larger, while setting the memory to zero if the density is smaller. That is, the binary image processing is an image processing method for setting the memory corresponding to each of the pixels to one or zero depending on whether the density value of the each pixel in the object to be processed is larger or smaller than the threshold value t.

An example of a conventional circle center extracting method for extracting the center of a circle of an object to be processed using binary image processing as described in the foregoing is a method as shown in Figs. 7 to 10 by generalized Hough conversion. Fig. 7 is a block diagram of a circle center extractor. First, the configuration thereof will be described. The circle center extractor comprises a camera 1 for picking up an object 2 to be processed, an image processing device 4 for subjecting an image obtained by the pickup to binary image processing to convert the image into a light intensity level, i.e., a density value for each pixel, and transferring the density value to a host computer 5 as digital signal data, or calculating the center of a circle, or outputting image data to a monitor 6, and a host computer 5 for subjecting data received from the image processing device 4 to calculation processing, and transmitting the received data to the image

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processing device 4 as a control signal, or outputting the received data to the exterior from an output unit 7, although parts thereof are repeatedly described.

The function of the conventional image processing method will be then described while also referring to Figs. 8 to 10.

When a video, i.e., an original image A (x, y) of an object to be processed including a circular contour line and a straight line is inputted to the image processing device 4 from the camera 1, the original image is decomposed into pixels 3 by binary image processing, to calculate the contour line. When it is assumed that the calculated contour line is a circle, for example, the contour line can be displayed on an x-y plane coordinate system, as shown in Fig. 8 (a). Therefore, an arbitrary point, i.e., A  $(x_i, y_i)$  is set on the contour line. A tangent S passing through the point A  $(x_i, y_i)$ , a straight line (a normal) i perpendicular to the tangent S, and further an angle  $\theta_i$  indicating a direction of the straight line i are calculated. As shown in Fig. B (b), A  $(x_i, y_i)$  of the original image A (x, y) is then subjected to 3  $\times$  3 spatial filtering, to find for each of the pixels 3 a primary differential value  $\Delta y_i$  in the longitudinal direction, a primary differential value  $\Delta x_i$  in the transverse direction, and  $\theta_i = \tan^{-1} \Delta y_i / \Delta x_i$ . The pixels that have been subjected to the spatial filtering in Fig. 8 (b) are represented by  $a = A (x_i-1, y_i-1), b = A (x_i, y_i-1),$ ~  $k = A (x_i+1, y_i+1)$ .  $\Delta x$ ,  $\Delta y$ , and  $\theta_i$  are respectively represented as  $\Delta x = a + b + g - c - f - k$ ,  $\Delta y = a + b + c - g$ - h - k, and  $\theta_i = \tan^{-1} \Delta y_i / \Delta x_i$ .

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As a result,  $\theta_i$  represents a direction of a density gradient of the pixel 3 at A  $(x_i, y_i)$ , and represents, when A  $(x_i, y_i)$  exists on an image edge (i.e., gray boundary) point, for example, a direction perpendicular to an image edge direction. If the image edge point exists on the circumference of the circle, therefore, the straight line i at the angle  $\theta_i$  passing through A  $(x_i, y_i)$  passes through the center C  $(x_0, y_0)$  of the circle. Here, if the radius r is constant and is known, C  $(x_0, y_0)$  is found as a center candidate point by the following equations from A  $(x_i, y_i)$  and the angle  $\theta_i$ :

$$x_0 = x_i + r \sin \theta_i$$

$$y_0 = y_i - r \cos \theta_i$$

when  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$  are not less than a certain value (separately determined), i.e., a threshold value Th in this way, A  $(x_1, y_1)$  is judged to be an image edge point, to record the point C  $(x_0, y_0)$  on an image B (x, y) previously cleared. When such processing is performed over the whole screen of the original image A (x, y), an image having a large value (ideally, the number of pixels on the circumference) in the vicinity of the center of a circle because the largest number of center candidate points are collected is obtained on the image B (x, y). A center point of the value can be extracted as a center point to be found of the circle. If the image B (x, y) is binarized by a predetermined threshold value t separately determined by the binary image processing, the circle can be extracted. This processing method is a method significantly effective in extracting a circle whose part is chipped.

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Fig. 9 shows a flow chart in the conventional example.

STEP 1 First, when a program is started, a video,
i.e., an original image A (x, y) of an object to be processed
2 including a circular contour line and a straight line is
inputted from the camera 1. In this case, the original image
A (x, y) is decomposed into pixels 3 by a binary image processing
method, and the circular contour line and the straight line are
also respectively converted into density differences among the
pixels 3 and calculated.

10 STEP 2 Then, a primary differential value  $\Delta y_i$  in the longitudinal direction, a primary differential value  $\Delta x_i$  in the transverse direction, and an angle  $\theta_i = \tan^{-1}\Delta y_i/\Delta x_i$  are formed for each of the pixels 3, to produce images of  $\Delta x$ ,  $\Delta y$ , and  $\theta$ 

STEP 3 An image in the previous stage that has been recorded on an image B (x, y) is erased (cleared), to obtain an image B (x, y).

STEP 4 Coordinates  $x_0 = x_i + r\sin\theta_i$  and  $y_0 = y_i - r\cos\theta_i$  of a point C  $(x_0, y_0)$  are sequentially recorded on the image B (x, y) if  $|\Delta x_i| + |\Delta y_i| >$  threshold value Th while the images of  $\Delta x$ ,  $\Delta y$ , and  $\theta_i$  obtained in STEP 2 are scanned, to complete the image B (x, y).

Fig. 10 is a graphical representation of the flow chart shown in Fig. 9, showing the process of sequential recording in such a way as to obtain Fig. 10 (b) showing  $\Delta x$  and Fig. 10 (c) showing  $\Delta y$  from an original image A (x, y) shown in Fig. 10 (a) and finally take images 101, 102, and 103 in the original

image, for example, as center candidate images of a circle on an image B (x, y) shown in Fig. 10 (d) to obtain 101', 102', and 103'.

If the center position of the circle in the image is found in this way, the circle can be extracted because the radius thereof is known, so that the position of a circle component is correctly recognized. This allows a correct work instruction to be given to a robot or the like.

(Problem to be Solved by the Invention)

However, such a conventional circle center extracting method employs a method of calculating a contour line image from a gray image of an object such as an object to be processed, determining an arbitrary point on the contour line image, finding a tangent and a normal that pass through the point, sequentially processing and storing the tangent and the normal and the radius of a circle designated and inputted from the exterior as information over the whole circumference of a contour line, and taking a point at which center candidate points of the circle are most closely spaced as the center of the circle having the designated radius. Therefore, there is a problem that the radius of a circle to be found must be known. Further, there are some problems such as the danger of erroneously extracting circles having different radius in an image and the possibility of extracting a linear shape and a grid shape as noises, resulting in a reduced extraction rate in a complicated shape including the shapes.

The present invention has been made by paying attention

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to the conventional problems and has for its object to provide a circular shape extractor in which a complicated shape is not erroneously estimated as a circle, thus solving the above-mentioned problems.

[Configuration of the Invention]
(Solution to the Problems)

In order to attain the above-mentioned object, the present invention is characterized by inputting a circular body as a gray image to extract all edge points in a gray boundary of the image, calculating the respective distances between the coordinates of an intersection of straight lines inclined at angles  $\theta$  at two of the edge points and the coordinates of the two edge points to extract the intersection as an image at the center of a circle when both the distances are substantially equal to each other, moving to the subsequent edge point, and similarly extracting the other edge points to estimate the center and the radius of the circular body.

(Function)

Straight lines inclined at angles  $\theta$  at two edge points are respectively normals at the points. If the two points are on the circumference of a circle, an intersection of both the normals is the center of the circle, and the distance between the intersection and the edge point is the radius of the center. Only when the two points on the circumference are selected, they are recorded as center image candidates and incremented, to move to the subsequent point, which prevents erroneous estimation. Moreover, even if the radius is not known, the

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center is extracted, which is convenient. Further, the radius is also calculated and estimated, which is significantly convenient.

(Embodiments)

An embodiment of the present invention will be described on the basis of Figs. 1 to 5. Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of a circular shape extractor according to the present invention. The configuration thereof will be first described. The circular shape extractor comprises a camera 1 for picking up an object 2 to be processed, an image processing device 4 for subjecting an image obtained by the pickup to binary image processing, converting the processed image into a density value as a gray image for each of pixels 3, transferring the density value to a host computer as data representing a digital signal, or calculating the center of a circle, or outputting image data to a monitor 6, and a host computer 5 for calculating data received from the image processing device 4, and transmitting the received data to the image processing device 4 as a control signal, or outputting the received data to the exterior from an output unit 7.

The basic function of the image processing will be then described with reference to Figs. 2 and 3.

When a video, i.e., an original image A (x, y) of an object to be processed, for example, including a circular contour line and a straight line is inputted from the camera 1, the original image is decomposed into a plurality of pixels by binary image processing, to calculate the contour line. When it is assumed

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that the calculated contour line is a circle, it can be displayed on an x-y plane coordinate system, as shown in Fig. 2. Here, when it is assumed that two arbitrary points on the contour line are determined as D  $(x_i, y_i)$  and E  $(x_j, y_j)$ , and the respective primary differentials  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$  are not less than a certain value (separately determined), i.e., a threshold value Th, the two points D  $(x_i, y_i)$  and E  $(x_j, y_j)$  are respectively judged to be image edge points (gray boundary points). It is assumed that all the other points on the contour line are also respectively judged to be edge points in the above-mentioned way. Angles  $heta_{\, ext{i}}$  and  $heta_{\, ext{j}}$  respectively passing through D  $(x_i, y_i)$  and E  $(x_j, y_j)$  and representing directions perpendicular to an image edge direction are then calculated. From  $\Delta x$ ,  $\Delta y$ , and the results of the calculation, it is possible to then determine a point, i.e.,  $F\left(x_{0},\,y_{0}\right)$  at which a straight line i passing through D (x, y) and having an angle  $\theta$ , and a straight line j passing through E  $(x_j, y_j)$  and having an angle  $\theta_{\text{j}}$  intersect each other inside a circle. Further, letting  $r_{i}$ be the distance between D  $(x_i,\ y_i)$  and F  $(x_0,\ y_0)$  and letting  $r_1$  be the distance between E  $(x_1, y_1)$  and F  $(x_0, y_0)$ , the coordinates of the intersection, i.e., F ( $x_0$ ,  $y_0$ ) can be expressed by the following equations:

$$x0 = x_i + r_i \sin \theta_i$$

$$y0 = y_i - r_i \cos \theta_i$$

$$x_0 = x_j + r_j \sin \theta_j$$

$$y_0 = y_i - r_i \cos \theta_i$$

From the foregoing equations, the distance  $r_1$  between D ( $x_1$ ,

 $y_i$ ) and F  $(x_0, y_0)$  and the distance  $r_j$  between E  $(x_j, y_j,)$  and F  $(x_0, y_0)$  are found as follows:

$$x_0 = (y_i - y_j + x_i \cot \theta_i - x_j \cot \theta_j) / (\cot \theta_i - \cot \theta_j)$$

$$y_0 = (x_i - x_j + y_i \tan \theta_i - y_j \tan \theta_j)/(\tan \theta_i - \tan \theta_j)$$

$$r_i = (-x_i + x_j + (y_j - y_i) \tan \theta_j) / (\sin \theta_i - \cos \theta_i \cdot \tan \theta_j)$$

$$r_i = (x_i - x_j + (y_i - y_j) \tan \theta_j) / (\sin \theta_j - \cos \theta_j \cdot \tan \theta_i)$$

Here, if it is assumed that D  $(x_i, y_i)$  and E  $(x_j, y_j)$  exist on the same circumference, the following equation holds:

$$r_i = r_i = radius$$

Consequently, two arbitrary points on the contour line are incremented as one set, to make the foregoing calculation with respect to the whole circumference of the contour line from one to another. Only when the result of the calculation is  $r_i = r_j$ ,  $F(x_0, y_0)$  can be taken as a center candidate point of the circle.  $F(x_0, y_0)$  thus calculated is recorded on an image  $G(x_0, y_0)$  previously cleared.

Fig. 3 shows a flow chart.

i.e., an original image A (x, y) of an object to be processed including a circular contour line and a straight line is inputted from the camera 1. In this case, the original image A (x, y) is decomposed into several pixels by a binary image processing method, and the circular contour line and the straight line are also respectively converted into gray images and digitized. Then, for each of the pixels obtained by the decomposition, a primary differential value Δx<sub>i</sub> in the transverse direction and a primary differential value Δy<sub>i</sub> in

the longitudinal direction are found, and an angle  $\theta_i$  is found from  $\tan^{-1}\Delta y/\Delta x$ . At the same time, a value of  $|\Delta x| + |\Delta y|$  for each of the pixels is calculated. When the value is more than a predetermined value (separately determined), that is, a threshold value Th, coordinates  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$  having this value are judged to be an image edge point. The coordinates  $\mathbf{x}_i$  and  $\mathbf{y}_i$  and the angle  $\theta_i$  are stored in a table. The table stores as a group calculated values for the pixels, for example,  $\mathbf{x}_i$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_i$ ,  $\theta_1$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_2$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_2$ ,  $\theta_2$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_3$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_3$ ,  $\theta_3$ , ...  $\mathbf{x}_N$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_N$ ,  $\theta_N$ .

STEP 3 The image in the previous stage recorded on the image A (x, y) is erased (cleared), to obtain an image G (x, y).

STEP 4 Data  $i = 1 \sim N$  are taken out of the table stored in STEP 2.

15 STEP 5 Data  $j = 1 \sim N$  are taken out of the table stored in STEP 2.

STEP 6 All combinations of the data taken out in STEP 4 and STEP 5 are produced, to find coordinates  $(x_0, y_0)$  of an intersection from an image edge point  $(x_i, y_i, \theta_i)$  in STEP 4 and an image edge point  $(x_j, y_j, \theta_j)$  in STEP 5, and find a distance  $r_i$  from the coordinates  $(x_0, y_0)$  of the intersection to the image edge point  $(x_i, y_i)$  and a distance  $r_j$  from the coordinates  $(x_0, y_0)$  of the intersection to the image edge point  $(x_j, y_j)$ .

STEP 7 The distance  $r_i$  and the distance  $r_j$  calculated in STEP 6 are compared with each other. When  $r_i/r_j = 1$ , the program proceeds to the subsequent step. The flow chart shows

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an example in which i = 1 and i = 2.

STEP 8 If  $r_i$  compared in STEP 7 is within a certain range (separately determined by Rmin and Rmax), it is judged that the image edge points  $(x_i, y_i)$  and  $(y_j, y_j)$  exist on the same circumference. The flow chart shows an example of  $r_1$ .

STEP 9 The found coordinates  $(x_0, y_0)$  of the intersection are recorded on the image G  $(x_0, y_0)$  as a center candidate point of a circle.

STEP 10 The subsequent j, e.g., j = 3 is taken out of the table stored in STEP 2. The program is returned to STEP 6.

STEP 11 The subsequent i, e.g., i = 3 is taken out of the table stored in STEP 2. The program is returned to STEP 5.

STEP 10 and STEP 11 are repeated until all the combinations of the data stored in STEP 2 are terminated.

END When all the combinations of the data stored in the table are processed, the program is terminated. As a result of the program processing, the image G (x, y) becomes an image having a dense peak value at which center candidate points of the circle are most closely spaced in a center candidate region of the circle, and a center point of the peak value can be extracted as a center point to be found of the circle.

Although in the flow chart shown in Fig. 3, description was made using a method of setting two arbitrary points on a contour line and calculating a combination of the two points over the whole circumference of the contour line, a combination

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of points in a case where the difference between respective angles  $\theta_i$  and  $\theta_j$  at the points is 0 degree or 180 degrees may be deleted because the accuracies of distances  $r_i$  and  $r_j$  are low. Further, calculation may be made by only a determined angle difference  $|\theta_i - \theta_j|$ , for example, 90 degrees or 60 degrees. In this case, the number of combinations is reduced so that the operation time is shortened. Further, in a case where  $|\theta_i - \theta_j|$  is 90 degrees, that is, in a figure having a right-angled corner, a center candidate point of a circle appears in a direction at an angle of 45 degrees to a straight line. Therefore, calculation may be made in a combination of points in a case where the difference is in a range of 40 degrees to 80 degrees.

Furthermore, Fig. 4 is a side view of an example in which a tire wheel is incorporated into a wheel hub in a vehicle by a robot or the like using the circular shape extractor according to the present invention, and Fig. 5 is a flow chart showing the example of the incorporation.

In Fig. 4, a wheel hub 10 in which a bolt is mounted on a bolt position 12 is connected to a vehicle body 8 through a spring 9 via a vehicle shaft 11. Here, it is recognized that the wheel hub 10 mounted substantially parallel to the vehicle body 8 is usually produced in a circular shape, and some bodies in the shape of a concentric circle exist on its surface. The wheel hub 10 is picked up by the camera 1, and an image obtained by the pickup is inputted to the image processing device, as described above. The inputted image is processed, to extract

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the center of a circle having a rough radius R between the inside and outside of the outer circumference of the wheel hub 10. It is herein assumed that the radius of the wheel hub 10 is between a distance  $T_1$  from the center of the circle to the inside thereof and a distance  $T_2$  from the center of the circle to the outside thereof (100 to 200 mm). The coordinates of a center point extracted in this way is taken as H  $(x_0, y_0)$ . At this time, the center of the concentric circle on the surface of the wheel hub 10 coincides with the extracted center point H  $(x_0, y_0)$ . Further, the radius R of the circle is relatively large. Thus, the number of image edge points required to calculate the center point is also large so that the center point can be extracted with high accuracy. Then, the bolt position 12 on the wheel hub 10 is calculated. The center coordinates of the calculated bolt portion 12 are taken as I  $(x_i, y_i)$ , where i = 1 to P (P= the number of found center points, which is five in the figure). Here, the radius r of a bolt or a hole at the bolt position 12, i.e., approximate  $T_3$  ( $T_3$  = approximately 5 to 10 mm) is extracted using circle extraction. However, the radius to be found is small. Therefore, care should be taken not to extract not only the bolt position but also some other noises.

Furthermore, the distance  $d_i$  between the center point H  $(x_0, y_0)$  of the wheel hub previously calculated and the center coordinates I  $(x_i, y_i)$  of each of the bolt positions is found by the following equation:

$$d_i = \sqrt{(x_0 - x_1)^2 + (y_0 - y_1)^2}$$

When the distance  $d_1$  and a determined constant  $T_4$  (the distance

from the center point of the hub to the center point of the bolt) are substantially equal to each other, the center coordinates I  $(x_i, y_i)$  is judged to be the bolt position 12. If one of the bolt positions 12 can be measured, the tire wheel can be incorporated. That is, an angle  $\theta$  between the center point H  $(x_0, y_0)$  of the wheel hub 10 and the center coordinates I  $(x_i, y_i)$  of the bolt position 12 is calculated by the following equation:

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}(y_i - y_0)/(x_i - x_0)$$

10 An instruction to incline the tire wheel at only the angle  $\theta$  to the center point H  $(x_0, y_0)$  and incorporate the tire wheel may be issued to the robot or the like.

Fig. 5 shows a flow chart.

STEP 1 When a program is first started, a video,

i.e., an original image of the wheel hub 10 is inputted from
the camera.

STEP 2 The original image in STEP 1 is processed to extract the center of a circle corresponding to the wheel hub 10 as a center point H  $(x_0, y_0)$ , assuming that a rough radius R between the inside and outside of the outer circumference of the wheel hub 10 satisfies  $T_1 < R < T_2$   $(T_1$  and  $T_2$  = approximately 100 to 200 mm).

STEP 3 The center of a circle having a radius  $r = T_3$  corresponding to the bolt position 12 on the wheel hub 10 is extracted and is taken as center coordinates I  $(x_i, y_i)$ , where  $i = 1 \sim P$ .

STEP 4 The distance di between the center

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coordinates I  $(x_i, y_i)$  of the bolt position 12 and the center point H  $(x_0, y_0)$  extracted in STEP 2 is calculated. When  $d_i = T_4$ , the center coordinates I  $(x_1, y_i)$  are judged to be the bolt position 12. An angle  $\theta$  between the center coordinates I  $(x_1, y_i)$  and the center point H  $(x_0, y_0)$  is found.

STEP 5 The tire wheel is incorporated in conformity with the angle  $\theta$  to the center point H  $(x_0, y_0)$ .

END When the incorporation of the time wheel is terminated, the program is also terminated.

The coordinates x and y, for example, described in the present invention are on a coordinate system in the image processing device. For example, the incorporation of the tire wheel into the wheel hub, described above, must be performed through conversion into a real coordinate system (a conversion equation is omitted because it is widely known).

[Effect of the Invention]

As described in the foregoing, according to the present invention, a circular shape extractor is so configured as to input a circular body as a gray image to extract all edge points in a gray boundary of the image, calculate the respective distances between the coordinates of an intersection of straight lines inclined at angles  $\theta$  at two of the edge points and the coordinates of the two edge points to extract the intersection as an image at the center of a circle when both the distances are substantially equal to each other, moving to the subsequent edge point, and similarly extracting the other edge points to estimate the center and the radius of the

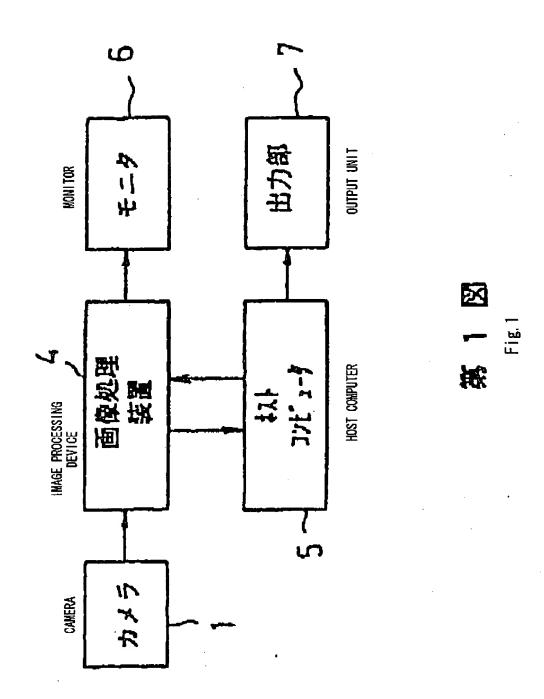
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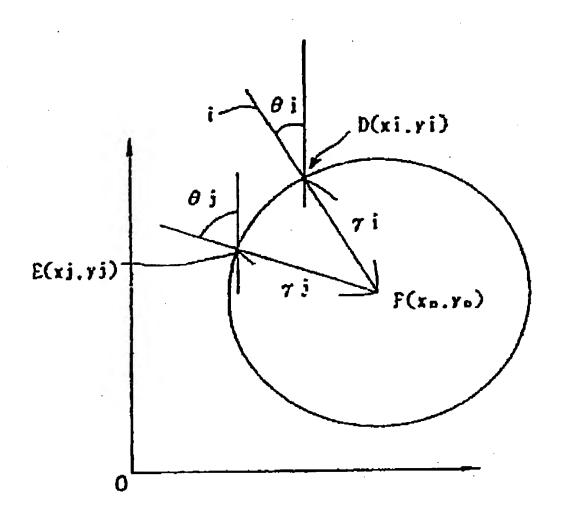
circular body. Even if the radius is not known, therefore, the circle can be extracted. Edge components other than the circle, for example, a straight line and an isolated point are not recorded, resulting in an improved extraction rate of the circle. Further, only one processing is required with respect to circles having different radii. A semicircular object to be processed whose shape is partially chipped from a circle can be extracted using circle extraction. Therefore, there can be provided a circular shape extractor being significantly useful and being thus accurate and efficient.

# 4. Brief Description of Drawings

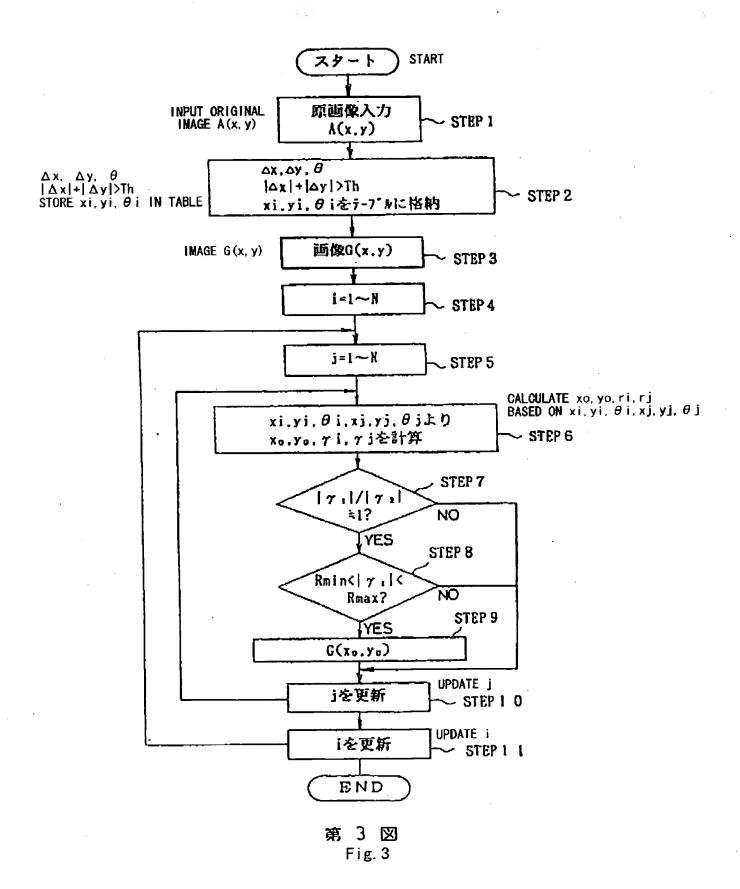
Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a circular shape extractor according to the present invention; Fig. 2 is an explanatory view in a case where a center candidate point of a circle is calculated; Fig. 3 is a flow chart showing an example of calculating a center candidate point of a circle; Fig. 4 is an explanatory view in a case where a center point of a circle of a wheel hub and the radius and the position of a bolt are calculated; Fig. 5 is a flow chart showing an example of mounting a tire wheel; Figs. 6 (a), 6 (b), and 6 (c) are explanatory views in a case where the center is calculated by conventional binary image processing; Fig. 7 is a block diagram of a conventional circle center extractor; Fig. 8 (a) and 8 (b) are explanatory views in a conventional case where a center candidate point of a circle is calculated; Fig. 9 is a flow chart showing a conventional example of calculating a center candidate point of a circle; and Fig. 10 is a diagram showing the process of processing and recording an original image.

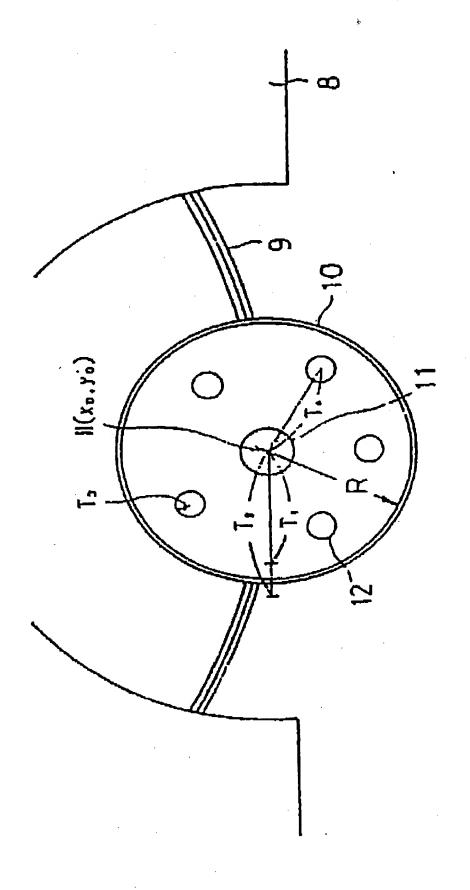
In the drawings, reference numeral 1 denotes a camera, 2 denotes a circular object to be processed, 3 denotes a pixel, 4 denotes an image processing device, 5 denotes a host computer, 6 denotes a monitor, 7 denotes an output, 8 denotes a vehicle body, 9 denotes a spring, 10 denotes a wheel hub, 11 denotes a vehicle shaft, and 12 denotes a bolt position.

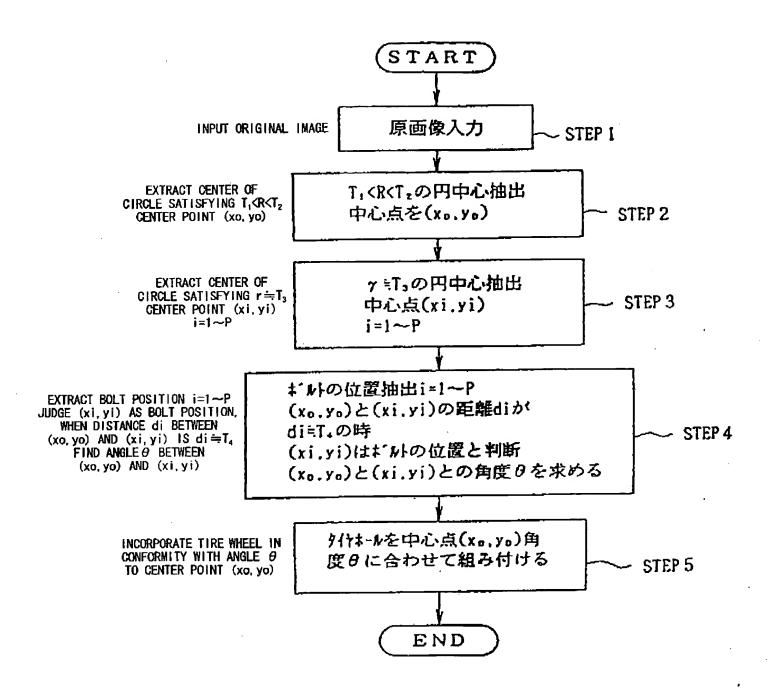




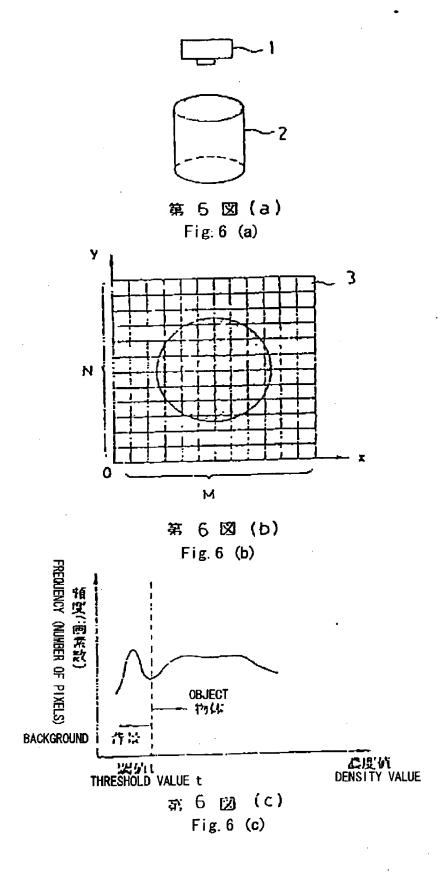
第 2 図 Fig. 2

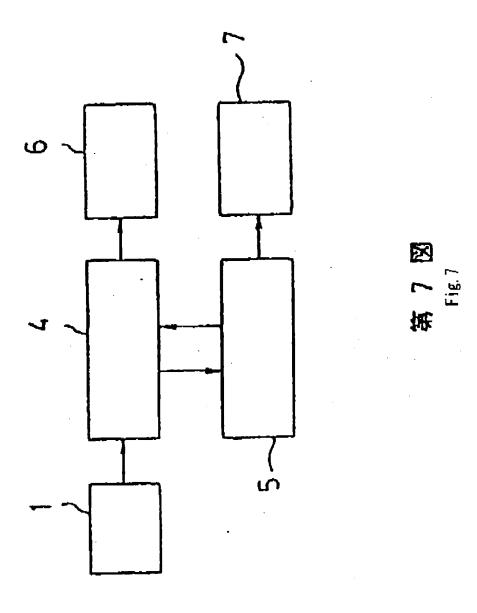


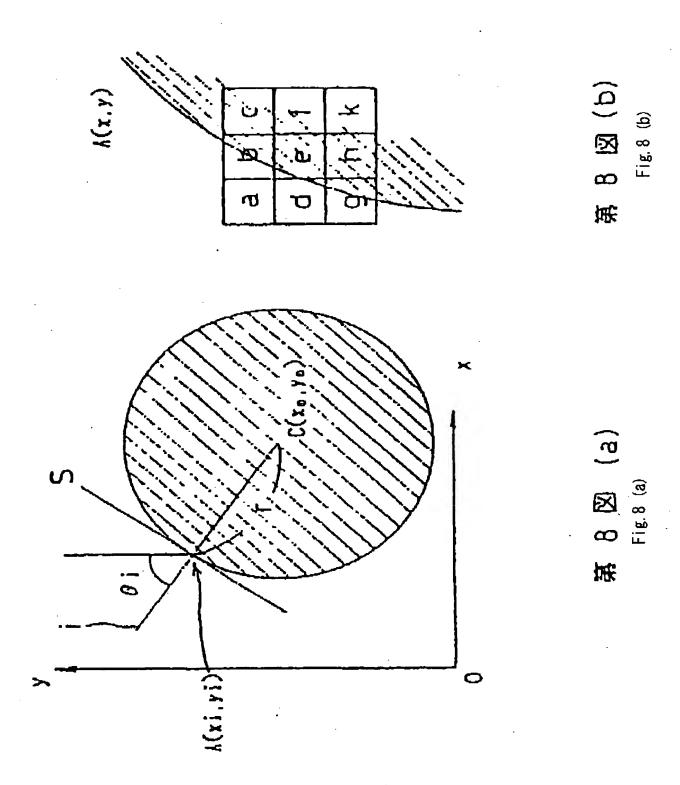




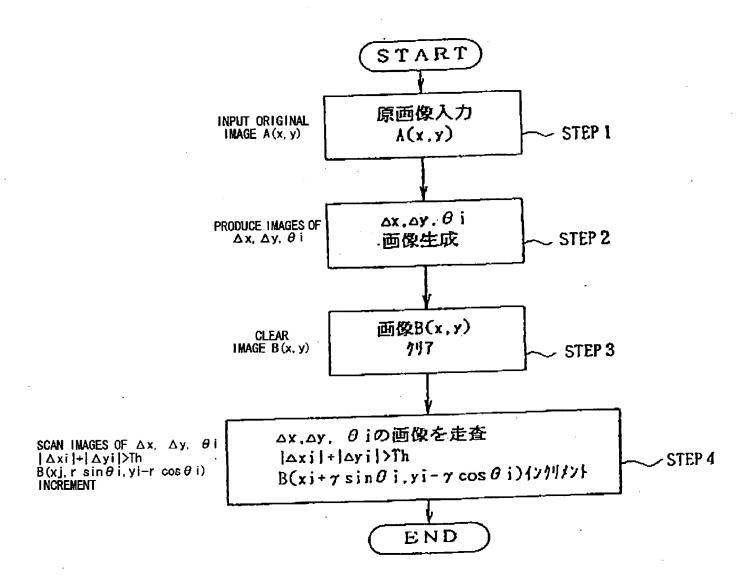
第 5 図 Fig. 5



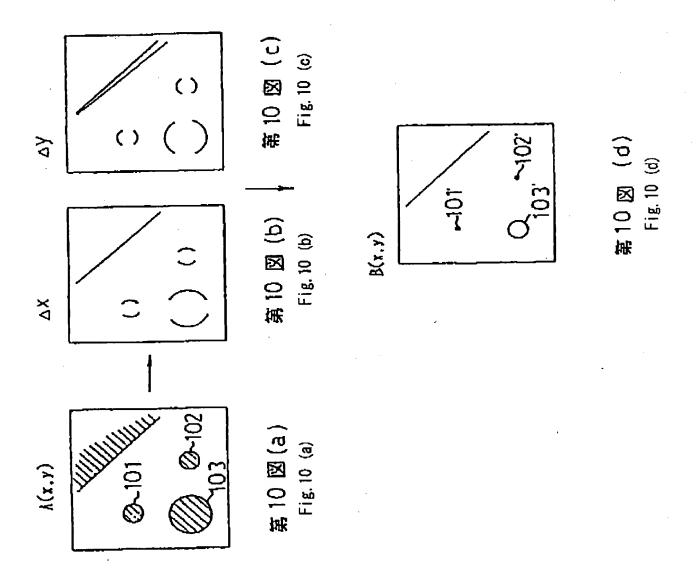




PAGE 32/45 \* RCVD AT 3/23/2007 6:33:42 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/2 \* DNIS:2738300 \* CSID:202 887 0689 \* DURATION (mm-ss):05-36



第 9 図 Fig. 9



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⑩日本国特許庁(JP)

①特許出願公開

# 四公開特許公報(A)

平3-239902

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の発明の名称 円形状抽出装置

**卸特 願 平2-36226** 

②出 頭 平2(1990)2月19日

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発明の名称
 内形状抽出装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

3.発明の詳細な説明

[元明の目的]

(皮集上の利用分野)

本鬼明は、円および円形状の中心成を抽出する手法に関し、特に、産業用ロボットなどに併設 接続されたカメラから円および円形状の輪郭を育する製造対象物の簡単を入力し、その画像をコン ビュータにより処理して、その円および円形状の 中心点を抽出し渡ロボットなどへの指示に利用で きる手法装置に関するものである。

(従来の技術)

最近、人間と同じ模賞を持つカメラを企業用 ロボットと併貨接続し、加工組立等の製造対象物 の形状や位置などを認知・計削させ、柔軟性のあ る加工根立作業を可能としたいわゆる人口知能を 存する歴集用ロボットが、人間の作業の代行民族 」として生産工程に多数採用されている。ところで、 このような生産工程の中の産業ロボットカメラに 入力する製造対象物の視覚商像の個似処態方法と しては、2位面像処理方法が広く用いられている。 (例えば、特開昭 6 2 - 3 4 0 0 4 号公報参照) .この2位面像処理方法は、以下に記述するような 力法である。第6図別に示すようにカメラ1によ って例えば彼加工物2を奪し、この両角をコンピ ュータに人力し、入力されたこの調像をx特方向 にMM、y軸方向にN例の画像に分解する。この 結果、彼加工物は、第6図100に示すように、麻素

#### 特限平3-239902(2)

以上に説明したような2 短網像処理を出いて飲加工物の円の中心を摘出する従来の円の中心補出 手法としては、一般化Houg h 疑康による第7 図~第1 () 図にますような方法がある。第7 図は、円中心補出装置のブロック図である。まず、構成

この結果、 8 ・は、 A (x ・, y ・) における 酵素 3 の 湯度 母配の方向を 変わすとともに、 例え ば、 A (x ・, y・) が 順像 エッジ ( 四 5 歳 後 の 均界) 点上に 存在した 場合には、 画像 エッジ ガ向 に 対し 直交する 方向を示すことと なる。 したがっ て、 略像 エッジ 点が 川の 門段上に 存在すれば、 A つぎに、この従来の画像処理法の作用について 第88~10888日の表明する。

カメラ 1 から円形輪郭線や直線を含んだ被加工物の映像すなわち原間像 A ( x . y )が、面像処理装置 B に入力されると 2 健関像処理により 断索 3 に分解され輪郭線が円であったと仮定すると第 8 図 個 に示すように、 x . y 軸の平面座標上に表示できる。そこで輪郭線上にげ意の一点すなわち A ( x

(x 1. y 1 ) を超る角度 8 . の確認 1 は、円の中心 C (x 2 . y 2 ) を確ることとなる。ここで、 学径 r が一定で 既知であるならば、A (x 1 . y 2 . ) および角度 8 . より C (x 2 . , y 2 . ) は

 $x \cdot - x \cdot + 7 \sin \theta$ 

y . - y . - 7 cos θ .

### 特別平3-239902(3)

常に有効な方法である。

第9図にこの従来例のフローチャートを示す。 STEP1 まず、ブログラムがスタートする とカメラ1から円形輪郭線や収録を含んだ飲加工 物2の映像すなわち原面像A(x・、y)が入力される。この際、原面像A(x・、y)は、2級面像 処理法により限案3に分解され、円形輪郭線や直線も面像3の線度をに変換算出される。

STEP 2 つぎに、各面系3 ごとに献方向の一次最分値  $\Delta$  y 、とほ方向の一次数分値  $\Delta$  x 。 および角度  $\theta$  。 =  $\tan^{-1}\Delta$  y 、  $/\Delta$  x 。を求め  $\Delta$  x 。  $\Delta$  y 、  $\theta$  。 の画像を作成する。

STEP3 両像B(x, y)に記録されていた前皮階の随像を消去(クリア)して画像B(x, y)にする。

STEP4 STEP2で得られたΔx. Δy.
θ, の酌像を歩変しながら、 | Δx. | + | Δy
. | > 陶匠Th であるならば、 B (x. y) に C
(x, y, ) の成の原復x. = x, + r s | n θ
, y, - y, - r cos θ, を順次記録して両降

円の中心とする手法をは用していたため、収まる円の半径が成知であることが必要であるという問題点があった。また、画像中で異なる半径の円を扱って抽出する危険性および直線やます目状の形状もノイズとして抽出するため、これらが含まれた複雑な形状では抽出率が低下する等の問題点があった。

この 発明は、このような従来の関題点に着目し 半径が既知でなくとも、また旋蠖な形状を円とし てあった推定をすることない円形状抽出装置を提 低し、ちって前記問題点を解決することを目的と している。

#### - [題明の構成]

(展断を解決するための手段)

この息明は、前記目的を連成するため、円形状物を競技の個限として人力しは圏像の領域界のすべてのエッジ点を抽出し、菓エッジ点のうちのある2点における角度かの規を直接の交点の座標と設つ点の座機との間の距離を探出して問題離が略等しくなるとき前記交点を円の中心前限とし

B (x, y) を完成させる。

第10図は、見9図のフローチャートを図で示したもので、切図の原理A(x, y)から△xの
②図、△yの()図を得て、最後に例えば傾動中の
即101、102及び103を切図の画像B(x,
y)において円の中心候補画像として101′、
102′およよび103′を得るようにして、厳
次記録される経過を表わす。

このようにして、脳像中の円の中心位置が求まれば半径が既知故に円が抽出でき円成分の位置が正しく認識され、これによりロボット等に正しい作業指示を与えることが可能となるものである。

(路明が解決しようとする課題)

しかしながら、このような従来の円の中心協出手法にあっては、被加工物など対象物の組織を動像を無出し、この輪部線調像とに低速の一点を確め、この点を通る接線とよるののようがはない。これと外部より指定人力される円の半径をのを特別として限次輪線は全層にわたって処理、記憶させ、円の中心候機点の最密集点を指定半径の

て抽出して次のエッジ点に移行し、 顔のエッジ点に移行し、 顔のエッジ点に移行し、 顔のエッジ点の はいて 同様の 抽出を行うことにより 前 紀円形状物の中心及び 半径を検定することを特徴とするものである。

#### (作用)

#### · (実施例)

以下、この発明の一実施例を第1図一系5回に基づいて説明する。第1回は、この発明による 可形状構出装置の一実施例を示すプロック図である。まず構成を説明すると、該加工物2を遺化するカメラ1と操像された画物と2値顧像処理して

#### 特個平3-239902(4)

各前申 3 ごとの検検制をして限度値にというの検検制をしてなるいは 5 としてかる 5 としてかる 5 としてかる 5 としてかる 5 として 6 として 6 として 7 との中心を 5 として 6 との中心 6 との中心 7 との 8 として 8

つぎに、 耐起 関係処理の 基本的作用を第2図及び 第3図を参照しつつ説明する。

 $x \circ - x + r \cdot \sin \theta \cdot$   $y \circ - y \cdot - r \cdot \cos \theta \cdot$   $x = x \cdot + r \cdot \sin \theta \cdot$   $y \cdot - y \cdot - r \cdot \cos \theta \cdot$ 

で扱わすことができる。この式より D (× 1 . y , ) と F (× 2 . y . ) との距離 r . と B (× 1 .

y , ) と F (x · , y · ) との 純献 f , は · x · = (y · - y , + x · cot θ · - x ; cot θ , ) / (cot θ · - cot θ · ) y · = (x · - x · + y · tan θ · - y · tan θ , ) / (tan θ · - tan θ · ) F · = (-x · + x · + (y · - y · ) tan

 $\theta_{+} > (-x_{+} + x_{+} + (y_{+} - y_{+})) \text{ tan}$   $\theta_{+} > (\sin \theta_{+} - \cos \theta_{+}) \text{ tan}$   $\theta_{+} > (\sin \theta_{+} - \cos \theta_{+}) \text{ tan}$ 

r, =  $(x \cdot - x \cdot + (y \cdot - y \cdot))$  Lan  $\theta \cdot )$  .

として求まる。 ここでもしD(x · , y · ) E (x · , y · ) とが同一周上に存在するとすれば、 ・ · ・ · ・ - \* E

となる。したがって、輪郭は上の任意の2点を一郎としてインクリメントし次々と輪郭線の全席について上部の計算を行ないその結果がで、ので、の銃をとる時のみ下(x、、y、)を何の中心機構成とすることができる。このようにして集出された下(x、、y、)を何もってクリアされた衛

SETP1 まず、プログラムがスタートする とカメラ 1 から円形輪郭線や追轉を含んだ簡加工 物の映像すなわち原面像 A (x , y)が入力され る。この群、原画作A(x, y)は、2 値画像処 理柱により数価素に分解され、円形輪郭眼や追線 も画像の痕迹画像に変換され故植化される。つぎ に、分解された画糸の各画衆ごとに慎方向の一次 取分更ム末」, 様方向の一次散分値ムy, と tan <sup>↑</sup> △ y / △ x から角度 θ , を求める。これと同時 に、各画条ごとの(Ax(+(Ay)を計算し、 この値がある一定の値(別に定める)すなわち隣 値Thより大きい時、この値を持った歴牒(×・・ y . )は、趣像エッジ点であると判断され、この 座標のェ・, y , , β , がテーブルに指的される。 このテーブルには例えば x 1 , y 1 , 0 1 , x 2 , уз. вз, яз, уз. вз. ~ ян. ин. θ κ のように各両素ごとの算出値をグループとし で格納する。

#### 特開平3-239902(5)

5 T E P 3 画像 A (x. y) に記録されている前段階の画像を消去 (クリア) して画像 G (x.y) にする。

STEP4 STEP2で格納されたテーブルから!-1~Nのデータを取り出す。

STEP5 STEP2で格納されたテーブルから」-1~Nのデータを取り出す。

STEP 7 STEP 6 で算出された距離 r · と距離 r · とを比較し、 r · / r · 与 1 の時は、 次のステップに逃む。フローチャートでは i - 1 および! - 2 の例を示す。

STEPS STEP7で比較されたで、の大

集した物度の高いピーク値を有する画像となり、 このピーク値の中心点を求める円の中心点として 抽出することができる。

なお、第3回のでは、 はないののでは、 はないののでは、 はないののでは、 はないののでは、 はないののでは、 ないののでは、 ないのでは、 ないのでは、

さらに、第4図に、本知明に甚づく円形状値出 技図を用いて、東面のホイール・ハブにタイヤホ イールをロボット等によって組み付ける実施例の 如瓜凶を示し、第5図に銀額み付け実施例のフロ

きさがある範囲内(Rein と Reax で別に定める)にあれば、函像エッジ点(メ・・・・)・(y・ y;)は、同一の円周上に存在すると判断する。 フローチャートでは、r・の例を示す。

STEP9 求められた交点座様(ス・・ソ・)を、円の中心候構点として関係 G(ス・・ソ・)に記録する。

STEP10 STEP2で格納されたテーブルから次の」、例えばり-3を取り出しSYEP6に戻る。

STEP11 STEP2で指納されたテーブルから次のi、例えば、I→3を取り出しSTEP5に戻る。

なお、STEP10とSTEP11は、STE O2に格納したデータのすべての制み合せが終了 するまで扱り返される。

END テーブルに体納されたデータのすべての組み合せが処理されるとプログラムが終了する。このプログラム処理の結果、断保 G (x, y) は、内の中心候補紙は10の中心候補品がもっとし次

#### ーチャートを示す。

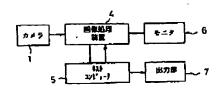
第4図において、ポルト位置12にポルトが取 り付けられるホイール・ハブ10は、乗輪11を 怪でスプリング9を介して車体8に連結されるよ うに構成されている。ここで、車体8と大略平行 に取り付けられているホイール・ハブ10は、通 常、円形に製作されその表面にはいくつかの同心 円形状の物体が存在する事が認められる。このよ うなホイール・ハブ10をカメラ1が規係してぞ の画像が前述のように画像処理装買に入力される。 入力された豚像を処理してホイール・ハブ10の 外間をはさむ大幅の半温Rの円の中心を協出する。 ここで、ホイール・ハブ10の半径を内側までの 距離下: と外側までの距離下。(100~200 ■■〉の間にあるものとする。このようにして納出 された中心点の座標をH(x。. y。)とする。 この時、ホイール・ハブ10の表面の同心川の中 心は、すべてこの抽出された円の中心点H(x。・ y。)と一致するため、また、円の半径Rが比較 的大きいため、中心点算出に必要な頑健エッジ点

明図、第7図は、従来の円の中心抽出装置のプロック図、第8図(a), Cb)は、従来の円の中心核構点を再出する場合の説明図、第9図は、従来の円の中心核構点を原出するフローチャート、第10図は、原図が画像処理されに経される経過を示す図

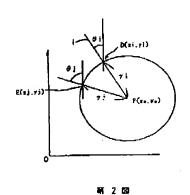
1 … カメラ、2 … 対象の円形状物、3 … 阿素、4 … 顧像処理鑑置、5 … ホストコンピュータ、6 … モニタ、7 … 出力、8 … 単体、9 … スプリング10 … ホイール・ハブ、11 … 車輪、12 … ボルト位置。

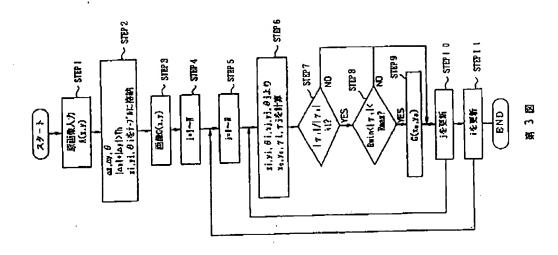
代理人 弗理士 三 好 秀 和

#### 特別平3-239902(ア)



第1図





### 初開平3-239902(日)

の数も多く特度高く抽出できる。つぎに、ホイール・ハブ10の上のボルト位置12を乗出する。 p出された中心出版1(ス・・ソ・)・1-1~ P(Pー求められた中心点の解数、図では5 開) とする。ここでボルト位置12のボルト又は穴の 単径「サなわち近似の下、(下、ゃち~10 ee 位) の円油出をするが、水める半後が小さいため、ボ ルト位置ばかりでなく他のいくつかのノイズも抽 出する可能性があり注意しなければならない。

さらに、先に質用されたホイール・ハブの中心 。 成日(x - . y - )と各ポルト位置の中心座標Ⅰ (x . . y 、)との距離4、を

d、 - √(x、 · · x · )² + (y · · · y · )²
 で求め、この心能は、と定められた定数で、(ハブの中心点からボルトの中心点までの起源) こが、大略 予しい時、中心組織 I (x · · · y · )をボルト位置 1 2 は、ト位置 1 2 と判断する。なお、ボルト位置 1 2 は、1 ケ所計組できれば 2 イヤの引み付けが可能である。すなわち、ホイール・ハブ 1 ()の中心点目(x · · · y · )とボルト位置 1 2 の中心层間 1

(x。. y。) との 距離 d . を 取出 し . d . の T 4 の の 、 小 心 形 様 ! (x · . y · ) を ポルト 位 置 † 2 と 判断 し 、 この 中 心 患 様 ! (x · . y · ) と H (x a . y - ) と の 角 皮 タ を 求 め る 。

STEP5 タイヤホイールを中心点耳(x。. y。), 角度 0 に合わせて組み付ける。

END タイヤホイールの前み付けが終了する とプログラムも終了する。

なお、木を明で説明した座標末、 y 零は、 画像 地域 故 慮 での 謝 様 采 で あ り 、 例えば 、 上 紀 に 説 明 した ホイー ル・ハブ への タイヤ ホイールの 飢 み付 け は 、 実 恒 様 名 へ 要 換 ( 要 後 ズ は 広 く 知 ら れ て い る の で 方 略 ) し だ が ( \*\*\*)

以上説明してきたように、この発明によれば、 その情成を刊形状物を確談の画像として入力し故 画像の環境場界のすべてのエッジ点を輸出し、成 エッジ点のうちのある2点における角度 & の構き 直接の交点の短標と毎2点の医様との間の距離を 専用して両距離が略等しくなるとき的記憶点を刊 の中心画像として抽出して次のエッジ点に移行し、 (x、, y , ) との角度 8 を

θ = lan -1 ( y 1 ~ y 2 ) / ( x 1 ~ x 2 )
で算出し、タイヤホイールを中心点 H ( x 2 ) 。) ,角度 θ だけ傾けて組み付けるようにロボット等に指示すればよいこことなる。

乗り図にそのフローチャートを示す。

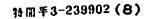
STEP 1 まず、プログラムがスクートする とカメラからホイール・ハブ 1 0 の映像すなわち 肝面像が入りする。

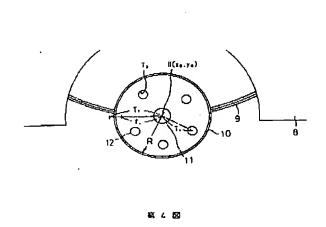
STEP2 STEP1の原価をを画像処理してホイール・ハブ10の外周をはさむ大略の半温及を下、<R<T、(T、~T、=)00~20 Use位)として、ホイール・ハブ10に相当する川の中心を抽出し、中心点且(x、、y・)とす

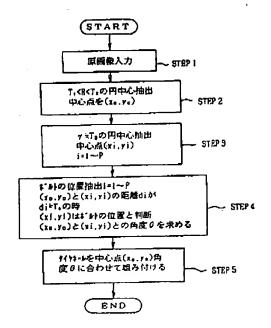
STEP3 ホイール・ハブ10の上のボルト 位置12に相当する半延 r 08 T 。の内の中心を抽 出し中心巫様 ( ( x ・ , y ・ ) し = 1 ~ P とする。 STEP4 ボルト位置12の中心座様 ( x

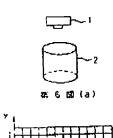
他のエッジ点はについては、というの前にできません。というないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないでは、できないできない。というないでは、できるとは、できないできない。

#### 4. 図面の簡単な説明

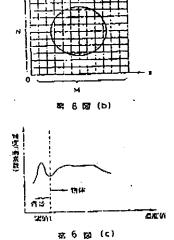


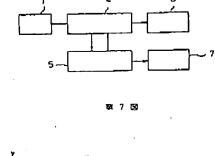


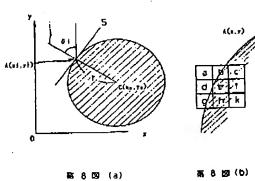




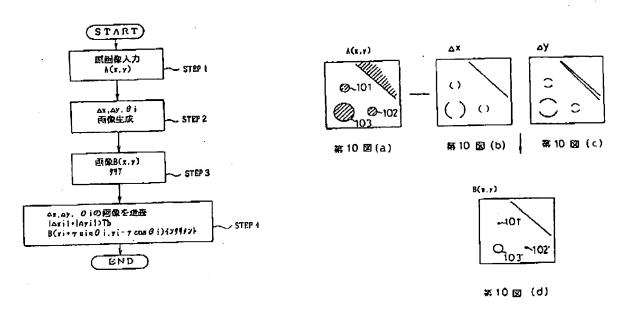








# 特冊平3-239902(9)·



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# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(71)Applicant: NISSAN MOTOR CO LTD

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(72)Inventor: NOSO KAZUNORI

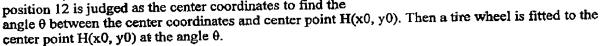
# (54) CIRCULAR SHAPE EXTRACTOR

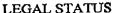
(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To estimate the center and radius of a discoid body without any error by calculating the coordinates of intersections of slanting straight lines at two points in an edge point and the distances between the coordinates of two points, and extracting the intersection as a center image of a circle when both the distances come to equal to each other, and

moving to a next edge point.

CONSTITUTION: The image of a wheel hub 10, i.e. the original image is inputted from a camera. Then the original image is processed to set a rough diameter R across the outer periphery of the hub 10 so that T1 < R < T2 (T1 - T2 is nearly 100 - 200mm), and the center of a circle corresponding to the hub 10 is extracted as a center point H(x0, y0). Then the center of the circle with a radius T3 corresponding to the bolt position 12 on the hub 10 is extracted as center coordinates. Then the center coordinates of the position 12 and the extracted center point H(x0, y0) of the center coordinates is calculated, and at the time of obtaining a radius T4, the position 12 is judged as the center coordinates to find the





[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

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